IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A computer-implemented method of characterizing a logical storage object, the method comprising:

storing information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for a logical storage object, including information identifying methods for placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency; and

transmitting the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for the logical storage object to a processor.

19. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the information identifying methods for placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

20. (New) A computer-implemented method of characterizing a logical storage object, the method comprising:

storing information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for a logical storage object, including information identifying methods for deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object, and transmitting the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for the logical storage object to a processor.

21. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 20, wherein the information identifying methods for deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.

22. (New) A computer readable medium comprising a data structure for characterizing a logical storage object, wherein the data structure comprises:

> a quiesce characterization, wherein the quiesce characterization includes a
>> method for placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency; and
>
> a split type characterization, wherein the split type characterization includes a
>> method of deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object.

23. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the quiesce characterization includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

24. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the split type characterization includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.

25. (New) A computer readable medium comprising program instructions, wherein the instructions are computer executable to:

> provide data representative of quiesce behavior of a logical storage object via a
>> plug-in component comprising:
>>> configuration information;
>>>
>>> syntax information describing how a frozen image of the logical storage object is generated; and
>>>
>>> information describing quiesce capabilities within the logical storage object.

26. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the information describing quiesce capabilities includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

27. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the information describing quiesce capabilities includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.